

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 291054Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5112

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1662

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12032

DEPARTMENT FOR S/MN AND IO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, ECOSOC

SUBJ: THAI CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL BOARD (INCB)

REF:: STATE 096361

SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE FROM THAI MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ASKING U.S. SUPPORT FOR CANDIDACY OF DR.
SOMSONG KANCHANAHUTA TO THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC CONTROL
BOARD AT FORTHCOMING ECOSOC SESSION IN NEW YORK. DR. SOMSONG
IS WELL-QUALIFIED FOR POSITION. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ELEC-
TION OF DR. SOMSONG WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CHANNEL FOR
INTERNATIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN OVER NARCOTICS TRAFFIC
TO REACH THAI GOVERNMENT. DR. SOMSONG IS WELL-KNOWN FIGURE
IN THAILAND WHO HAS WORKED EXTENSIVELY ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL
MATTERS. ACTION RECOMMENDED. THAT DEPT SUPPORT ELECTION OF
DR. SOMSONG TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC CONTROL BOARD. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED NOTE ON APR 29 FROM THAI MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DATED APR 22 REQUESTING U.S. SUPPORT
FOR THE CANDIDACY OF DR. SOMSONG KANCHANAHUTA FOR ELECTION
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AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC CONTROL BOARD,

TO BE HELD DURING THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF ECOSOC IN NEW YORK IN THE NEAR FUTURE, DR. SOMSONG IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE THANYARAK NARCOTIC HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IN BANGKOK. DR. SOMSONG'S CURRICULUM VITAE APPEARS BELOW

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, EMBASSY SENT NOTE TO THAI MFA ON APR 28, REQUESTING THAI SUPPORT FOR THE CANDIDACY OF FSO BETTY GOUGH TO THE INCB. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THAI REACTION, BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO ANTICIPATE THAI WILL NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF GOUGH. THAI WILL CERTAINLY EXPECT U.S. SUPPORT FOR THEIR CANDIDATE TO INCB IF THEY SUPPORT U.S. CANDIDATE.

3. MOREOVER, THERE IS EVEN MORE COMPELLING REASON FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR THAI CANDIDACY. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THAI OFFICIALS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITY, BOTH TO KEEP THEM INFORMED OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS TO SUBJECT THAILAND, THROUGH THEM, TO THE EXPRESSION OF CONCERN IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OVER THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROBLEM IN ALL OF ITS DIMENSIONS. WHILE THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS WITHIN THE RTG, MAY THAI STILL TEND TO REGARD DRUG ABUSE AS LARGELY AN AMERICAN PROBLEM AND DISPLAY LITTLE INTEREST IN SERIOUS ACTION TO CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OF NARCOTICS IN AND THROUGH THAILAND TO "VIETIM" COUNTRIES OVERSEAS. DR. SOMSONG'S RECORD SHOWS HE IS INDEED CONCERNED ABOUT DRUG ABUSE MATTERS AND WILL BENEFIT FROM ELECTION TO THE INCB. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ELECTION OF DR. SOMSONG WOULD PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH INTERNATIONAL CONCERN OVER THE DRUG TRAFFIC COULD BE EXPRESSED TO THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT.

4. DR. SOMSONG WAS BORN JAN 9, 1928, IN NAKHON SAWAN, THAILAND. HE GRADUATED IN 1952 WITH AN M.D. DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCE (MAHIDON UNIVERSITY, BANGKOK. IN 1958 HE RECEIVED A DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH (HONORS) FROM THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT AND IN 1968 RECEIVED CERTIFICATES IN PUBLIC HEALTH FROM THE KONINKLIJK INSTITUUT VOOR DE TROPEN (NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE
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FOR THE TROPICS).

5. IN THAILAND HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE UN PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNPDAC) IN THAILAND AND AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE THE ANTI-NARCOTICS ASSC OF THAILAND. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL ASSOC OF THAILAND AND OF THE AMERICAN

MEDICAL ASSOC. HE HAS ATTENDED DRUG ABUSE CONTROL
CONFERENCES IN INDONESIA, GENEVA, AND MALAYSIA.
WHITEHOUSE

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Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
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